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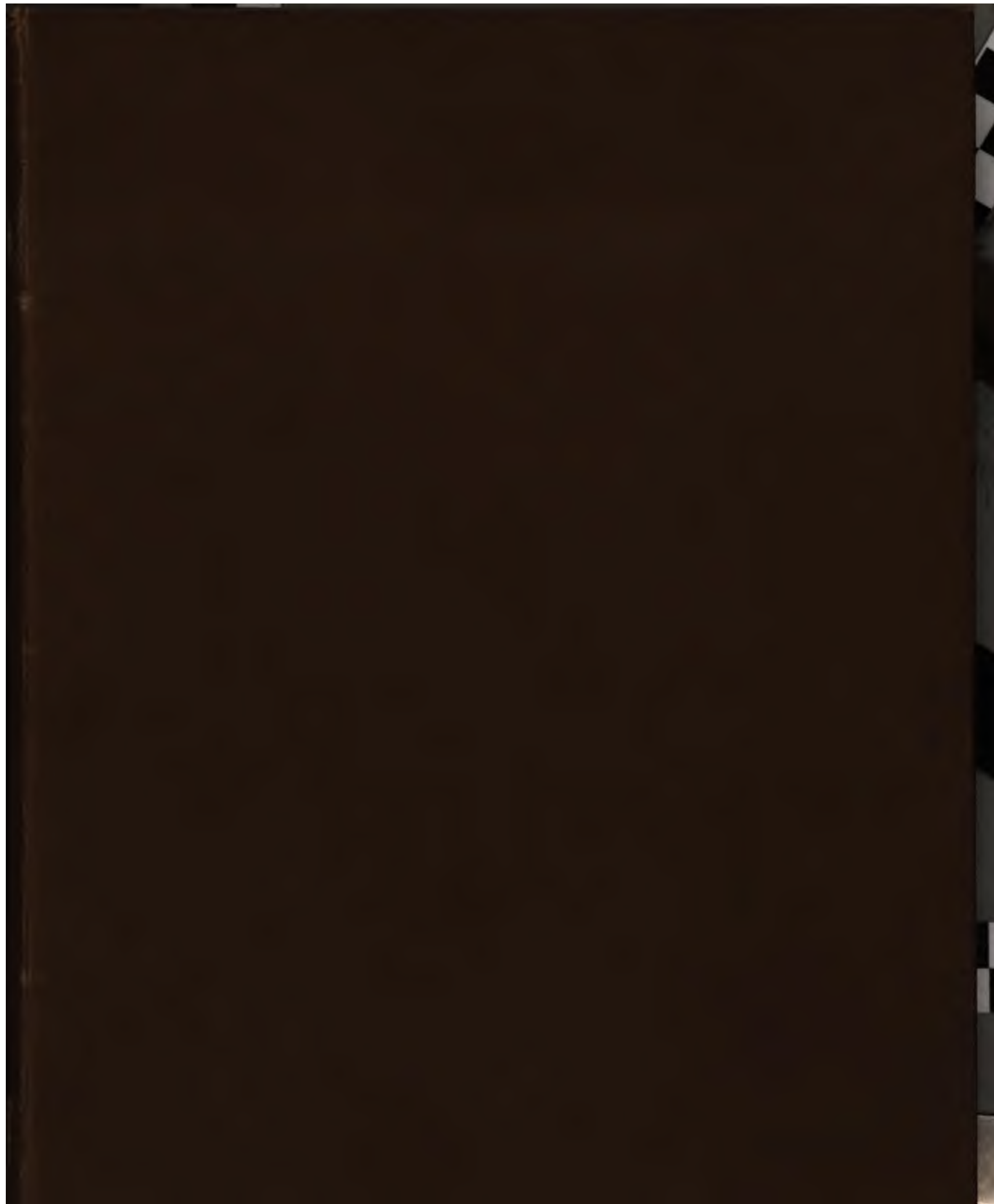
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THE
ASSIGNMENT OF ARMS
TO
Shakespeare and Arden,
1596—1599.

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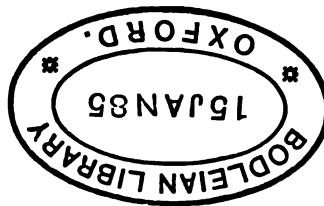
WITH INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY
STEPHEN TUCKER, ESQUIRE,
Somerset Herald in Ordinary.

LONDON:
MITCHELL AND HUGHES, 140 WARDOUR STREET, W.
1884.

M. add 29. d. 1.

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THE
ASSIGNMENT OF ARMS
TO
Shakespeare and Arden.

The particular interest attaching to anything connected with the history of Shakespeare arises, first, from his name heading, as it were, the foremost leaf of the Book of Fame ; and next, to the singular fact that so very few of his relics have descended to us ; which one would rather attribute to demands for their very general dissemination in the seventeenth century, and consequent loss of identity, than to the suggestion that his countrymen were tardy in realising his unapproached genius. The documents, of which facsimiles are here given, are dispersed in volumes of various evidences in the Heralds' College, and relate, in four instances, to the grant of arms made to Shakespeare's father in 1596, and to the allowance of arms for his wife (Arden) three years later.

The coloured facsimile exhibits the precaution of Sir Wm. Dethick, when assigning a sable bend on a gold field, in having before him such similar coats as already existed, to guard against infringing the recorded rights of others ; the other smaller facsimile is a rough trick of the arms as finally arranged, while the first and second drafts of the grant shew the corrections and additions made, in all probability, at the instance and in the presence of Shakespeare himself. But I think the document of 1599 still more interesting, for we have proof not only of the desire to perpetuate gentle descent through the mother, but Camden (who had entered the College after the grant of 1596) was a party to it as "Clarenceux."

The bearing of arms in the sixteenth century was, I need not say, more limited and more restricted as to the class and status of grantees than at later periods, and one gets an inkling of the Poet's ambition to raise his family in the social scale, as well as an indication of the position of his non-professional associates, in tracking him to the Heralds' College, and seeing all the pains he took to aggrandise himself with an inherited, and his descendants with a quarterly coat. For Shakespeare was assuredly his father's agent in these matters ; and it seems to give me a new love

for the old College to picture his being here, closeted with Dethick and Camden. We seem to touch his hand when holding the very documents he must have held, and in turning over the leaves of the identical MSS. which were doubtless before him, as they are now before me, in his endeavour to "tack on" his mother to a recorded line of Arden. This is suggested by the draft of 1599. In the sketch the *fess* coat of Arden was first impaled with John Shakespere's, but very properly struck out, for the Ardens to which it belonged were then flourishing, and the connection with them of John Shakespere's wife, though asserted, could not be proved.

This question of assigning what is called the "old coat" of Arden in impalement, has been often discussed, viz., by Mr. Halliwell, Mr. Gough Nichols, Mr. G. R. French, and others ; but I am inclined to think that Dethick and Camden were perfectly justified in allowing it as they did, charging the chief with a martlet. The claim to the fess coat was soon negatived, and if the mother of Shakespere was entitled to any arms (for although there is the strongest circumstantial evidence of her descent, it has not, as far as I know, ever been satisfactorily established), it could only have been to the so-called "old coat"; and this was eventually assigned, with the saving clause of differencing the chief—an addition which modern representations of the impaled arms omit in error.

NON SANZ DROIT

8 hakejperre. 1596

[illegible]

The 1850s were a period of significant change and development in the United States. The Civil War, which began in 1861, was a major event that shaped the nation's future. The war was fought between the Union and the Confederacy, and it resulted in the abolition of slavery. The Reconstruction period, which followed the war, was a time of great struggle and progress. The Reconstruction Act of 1867 established the Reconstruction Acts, which provided for the reconstruction of the Southern states. The Reconstruction period was a time of great struggle and progress. The Reconstruction Act of 1867 established the Reconstruction Acts, which provided for the reconstruction of the Southern states. The Reconstruction period was a time of great struggle and progress. The Reconstruction Act of 1867 established the Reconstruction Acts, which provided for the reconstruction of the Southern states.

ROUGH DRAFT OF

Grant of Arms to John Shakespeare, 1596.

(No. I.)

NON SANZ DROICT.

Shakespere 1596.

To all & singuler Noble & Gentillme' of what estate or degree bearing Arms to whom these p'ntes shall come Will'm Dethick al's Garter. principall king of Arms sendethe greetinges. Knowe Yee that whereas by the authorite & auntyent ^{p'vyelege &} ~~cus-~~ p'teyning to said of principall king of Arms fro' tome ~~of~~ [^] my office [^] ~~for~~ the Quenes most exc' Ma^{te} and her highnes most noble & victorious progenitors. I am to take gene'all notice & woord & to make publique demonstracon & testemonie for all ~~matters &~~ ^{and matters of} causes of Arms ~~& for all~~ Gentrie Thoroughe out all her Mates Kingdoms & Domynions, Principalites, Isles, & Provinces. To thend that Wh(ere) As some by theyre auntyent Names families kyndredes & descentes have & enioye sonderie enseignes & C(ottes) of Arms. So other for theyre valiant factes magnanimite vertue dignites & descertes may have suche ~~tokens &~~ markes & Tokens of honor & Worthinesse. Whereby theyr Name & good fame shalbe & divulged & theyre Children & Posterite ^{in all vertue encouraged to the better service of theyre Prynce & Contrie} ~~^ better ^ discerned~~ ^{the} ~~in consideration & better declaration wherof I have ben~~ ^{Being herunto solicited and by report} ~~^ crediblye informed.~~ ^{therefore} Beinge [^] ~~herunto~~ solicited & (by) credible report informed. That John Shakespeare of Stratford vppon Avon in the Counte of Warw(ike) whose ^{parents & late} ~~^~~ ante-cessors were for they(r)e valieant & faithfull service advaunced & rewarded by the most Pruden(t) Prince king Henry the seventh of famous memorie sythence whiche tyme they have contin'ed ^{at those p'tes} ~~^~~ in good reputac'on & credit ^{And that the said John having maryed} ~~^~~ In consideration ~~the Mary* daughter & one of the heyres of Robert Arden of Wilm^{co} in the said Counte gent.~~ ^{therfore} wherof & for encouragement of his posterite I have [^] assigned ~~geven~~ and

* The words *Mary*, *Robert*, *Wilm^{co}*, and *said* in this line are additions, in a different hand and ink, probably by Shakespere himself, as they fill blanks obviously left for family information.

by these p'ntes
 and [^] confirmed
 graunted [^] this shield or Cote of Arms. Viz. Gould on a bend sable a speare of
 the poynt steeled ^{proper} ~~argent~~
 the first [^] And for his Creast or Cognizance A faulcon ^{his wings displayed proper Argent} ~~argent~~ standing on a
 wrethe of his Coullors supporting a Speare gould steled ^{as aforesaid} ^{proper} ~~argent~~ sett vpon a
 healmett wth mantelles and tasselles as ^{hathe ben accustomed and} [^] more playnely appeareth depicted on this
 margent. Signefieng hereby that it shalbe lawfull for the sayd John Shakespeare
 Gent. and for his Children yasne & posterite ^{at all tymes convenient to make shewe of} ~~And that he or they maye vse &~~
 Blazon (or) Atchevement theyre ^{cote of Arms Creast Cognizance or}
 beare the same [^] on [^] Shield(es) or Escucheons [^] Seales Ringes signettes
 penons Guydons Edfices Vtensiles lyveries Tombes or Monum'tes
^{at all tymes}
[^] or other wyse [^] in all lawfull Warriyke factes or Civile vse and exercises
 according to the Lawes of Arms ^{other} that * * ^{vse} beare the same
[^] wthout lett or interruption of any p'son or p'sons * * In Wirtnesse
 Wherof I have herevnto subscribed my name & fastened the Scale of my office
 endorzed wth the Signett of my Arms. At the office of Arms Londoⁿ the xxth daye
 of october = the xxxixth yeare of the reigne of ou^r Sou^{er}aighe Lady Elizabeth by
 the grace of God Quene of England ffraunce & Ireland. defender of the faithe etc.
 1596.

† To whom theyse achivments must descend, by
 the auncient custom and lawes of Armes.

(Vincent, 157, 23.)

* Words occur here that are undecipherable.

† This footnote is in a different and neater handwriting.

ROUGH DRAFT OF

Grant of Arms to John Shakespeare, 1596.

(No. II.)

Shakespere.

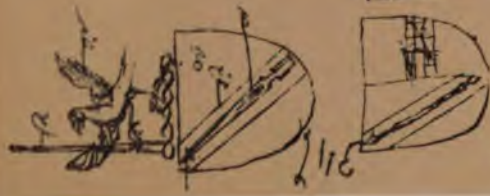
NON SANZ DROICT.

To all and singuler, Noble, and Gentilmen: of what Estate, degree, bearing Arms to whom these presentes shall come. Will'm Dethick Garter princip(al) king of Arms sendethe greetinges. Knowe yee that whereas by the authorit(ie) and auneyent pryveleges p'teyning to my office fro' the Quenes most excellent Ma^{te} and by her highnesse most noble & Victorious Progenitors. I am to take gen'all notice & woord ~~for~~ and ~~tec~~ to make ^{declaration} ~~demonstration~~ & testemonie for all causes of Arms and matters of Gent. thoroughe all her Ma^{tes} Kingdoms, Dominions, Principalites, Isles, and Provinces. To the'nd that as ^{manie gentilme'} ~~some me'~~ by theyre auneyent names of families, Kyndredes, & Descentes have & enioye certeyne enseignes & cottes of Arms So it is ve(rie) expedient ^{in all tymes Ages} ~~^~~ that some me' for theyr Valeant factes, magnanimite, vertu, dignites & des(certes) maye ^{vse} ~~have~~ & beare suche tokens of hono^r and worthinesse. Wherebye theyre Name & good fame maye be the better knowen & divulged and theyre Children & posterite (in all Vertu to the syrvice of theyre Prynce & Contrie) encouraged. Wherefore being solicited and by credible report (info)rmed. That John Shakespeare of Stratford vppon Avon in the Countie (of) Warwike parentes Grandfather ^{his} ~~were~~ ^{antecessors} ~~were~~ for ~~theyr~~ ^{his} faithfull & va(leant) Prince King Henry the seventh of (t)hose p'tes ^{in these p'tes being} continewd ~~^~~ of good reputacon said John hathe maryed the daughter Counte ^{esquire} ~~gent~~ and for the encouragement of his posterite ~~aforesaid~~ ^{suche} to whom ~~^~~ auneyent custome of the Lawes of Arms maye descend. I ~~have~~ the said g(arter principal king) of Arms have assigned, graunted, and by these p'ntes confirmed: This shie(ld) of Arms. Viz. Gould on

A Bend Sables a Speare of the first steeled argent. And for his Creast or Cognizance a falcon his winges displayed Argent standing on a wrethe of his Coullors suppo(rtinge) A Speare Gould steeled as aforesaid sett vppo' a helmett ^{with} ~~and~~ mantelles ^{& tasselles} [^] as hathe ben accustomed and dothe more playnely appeare depicted on this margent: Signefeing herebye & by the authorite ~~aforesaid~~ of my office aforesaid Ratefeing that it shalbe lawfull for the said John Shakespeare gent. and for his cheldre' yssue & posterite (at all tymes ^{& places} [^] convenient) to beare and make demonstraco' of the said Blazon or Atchevment vppo' theyre Shieldes, Targetes, escucheons, Cotes of Arms, ^{Crestes or Cognizances} [^] Pennons, Guydons, Seales, Ringes, Edefices, Buyldinges, vtenseles, lyueries, Tombes, or monumentes or otherwise for all lawfull warrlyke factes or Ciuile vse or exercises: according to the lawes of Arms, and Customes that to gentillmen belongethe: wthout let or interruption of any ^{other} [^] p'son or p'sons ^{for vse or} [^] bearing the same. In Wittnesse & p'petuall reme'brance hereof I have herevnto subscribed my name & fastened the Seale of my office endorzed wth the signett of my Arms. At the office of Arms Londo' the xx daye of October the xxxvijth ~~xxxx~~ yeare of the reigne of ou^r Sou^raigne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of England, ffraunce and Irlendale Defender of the ffaythe etc. 1596.

	This John A pa therof vnder Clarenc' Cook hand	}
	— paper. xx years past	
	[—] officer & cheffe of the towne	
A Justice of Peace and was	[^] Baylife [^] of Stratford vppo' Avon. xv or xvj	
years past		
	That he hathe Landes & tenementes. of good wealth & substance. 500 ^{li} .	}
	That he mar.	

(Vincent, 157, 24.)

[illegible]

To all and singular Nobles & Gentilme' of ~~who~~ all estates & degrees bearing Arms. To whom these presentes shall com' Will'm Dethick Garter-principall king of Arms of England and Will'm Camden al's Clarentieulx king of Arms for the Sowth, East and West p'tes of this Realme sendethe greetinges. Knowe yee. That in all Nations and Kingdoms the Record and remembrances of the valeant factes & ~~valiant~~ verteous dispositions of ^{valiant} ~~A~~ worthis men have ben made knowe' and divulged by certeyne Shieldes of Arms & tokens of Cheualrie The grant & testimonie wherof apperteyneth vnto vs by vertu of ou' office fro' the Quenes most Exc' Ma^{tie} & her highenes most noble & Victorious Progenitors. Wherefore being solicited and by credible report informed. That John Shakespere nowe of Stratford vppo' Avon in the Counte of Warwik Gent'. Whose parent ^{great grandfather late} ~~A~~ and ^{late} ~~A~~ Antecessor ^{was} ~~A~~ for his ^{late} ~~A~~ most prudent Prince faithefull & approved service to ^A King H. 7 of ~~most~~ famous memorie. Was advanced & Rewarded wth Landes & Tenementes geuen to him in those p'tes of Warwikshere. Where they have continewed by ^{some} ~~A~~ descentes in good reputaco' & And for that ~~produced a certeyne Cote of Arms heretofore Assigned vnto~~ credit ^A The said John Shakespere having maryed the daughter & one of the ~~daughters. Whilste he was some tyme Baylefe of~~ heys of Robert Arden of Welling Cote in the said Countie. And also produced this his ^{Cote} ~~A~~ her ma'tes officer ^A * & ~~a certeyne~~ Auncient ^A of Arms heretofore Assigned to him whilste he was ^{of the Premises} ~~Whereof~~ Baylefe of that Towne. In Consideration ~~Whereof~~ And for the encouragement & Atchevements of inheritance of his posterite vnto whom suche Blazon of Arms ^A from theyre said mother by ~~in this Realme lawfully~~ the aunycnt Custome & Lawes of Arms maye ^A descend. We the said Garter and Clarentieulx. have ~~by these p'tes~~ ^{& by these presentes exemplified} Assigned, graunted, & confirmed ^A vnto the said John Shakespere and to his posterite that Shield & Cote of Arms ~~which showed a~~ ~~he~~ ^A ~~produced~~ Viz. in a field of Gould vppon A Bend Sables A Speare of the

* A word occurs here which is partially obliterated and quite undecipherable.

first the Poynt vpward hedded ~~with Steele~~ ^{proper} ~~Argent~~ Argent And for his Creast or
 Cognizance. A ffalcon wth his wynges displayed standing on A wrethe of his
 Coullors. Supporting A Speare in ~~pale~~ ^{Armed} hedded ^{or} & steeled ^{sylver} ~~Argent~~. fyxed
 vppon A helmet wth mantelles & tasselles of as more playnely ^{maye} ~~A~~ appeare depicted
 on this Margent. And ~~vnder the same~~ ^{lykewise (v)ppo' on other Escucheone} We have ~~further~~ ^{as aforesaid} ~~A~~ impaled the same wth
 the Auncyent Arms of ^{the said} ~~A~~ Arden of Willingcote. Signefeing thereby That it
^{maye &}
~~A~~ shalbe Lawefull for the said John Shakespere gent. to beare & vse the same
 Shieldes of Arms
~~A~~ Single or impaled as aforesaid during his naturall Lyffe. And that it shalbe
^{ysseue}
 Lawfull for his children ~~A~~ & posterite (Lawfullye begotten) to beare vse & quarter
 & shewe forthe
~~A~~ the same wth theyre dewe differences ⁱⁿ for ~~A~~ all Lawfull warlyke factes, and Ciuile
 vse or exercises, according to the Lawes of Arms & Custome that to Gent'
 belongethe. Wthout let or Interruption of any p'son or p'sons for vse or p^r bearing
 the same. In Wytnesse & testemonye wherof We have subscribed ou^r Names &
 fastened the Seales of ou^r Offices. Yeuen at the office of Arms London the
 in the xliij^{te} yeare of the reigne of ou^r Most gracious Sou'aigne
~~Ladye~~ Elizabeth by the grace of God france & Ireland
 defender of the faythe etc. 1599.

(R. 21, 285.)

Shakespeare



It may, as well be said that Shalouchy vnto beuere & ground
a Bend between two thorned palles, and all offe that Dr. and
Argent. a bend palles vnto the state of the Ld. Mawley
As for the Spence in Lend to a patible difference. And the
person to whom it was granted hath beuere magistery and
hath Justice of peace at Stratford vpon Avon & married
the daughter and heire of Alderme and was able to maintaine
that estate.



Facsimile.—Notes of similar bearings in charge, metal, and color, to the proposed Coat for Shakespere.

**Note by or for Sir William Bethick of similar
bearings.**

Shakespere.

It may aswell be said that Harely who beareth Gould a Bend betweene two
Cotizes sables. and all other that Or. and Argent. a bend sables vsurpe the coate of
the Lo. Mauley As for the Speare in Bend is a patible difference. And the person
to whome it was granted hath borne magestracy and was Justice of peace at
Stratford vpon Avon he married the daughter and heire of Arderne and was able to
maintaine that estate.

(W. Z. 276^b.)

Shakespeare.

See y^e booke of Differ' 61.

See Knyghtes of E. I. fol.

2, 28. ~~Booke of diff.~~

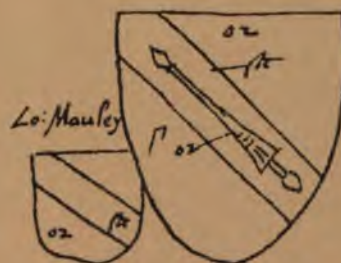
Lo : Mauley.

(R. 21, 285.)

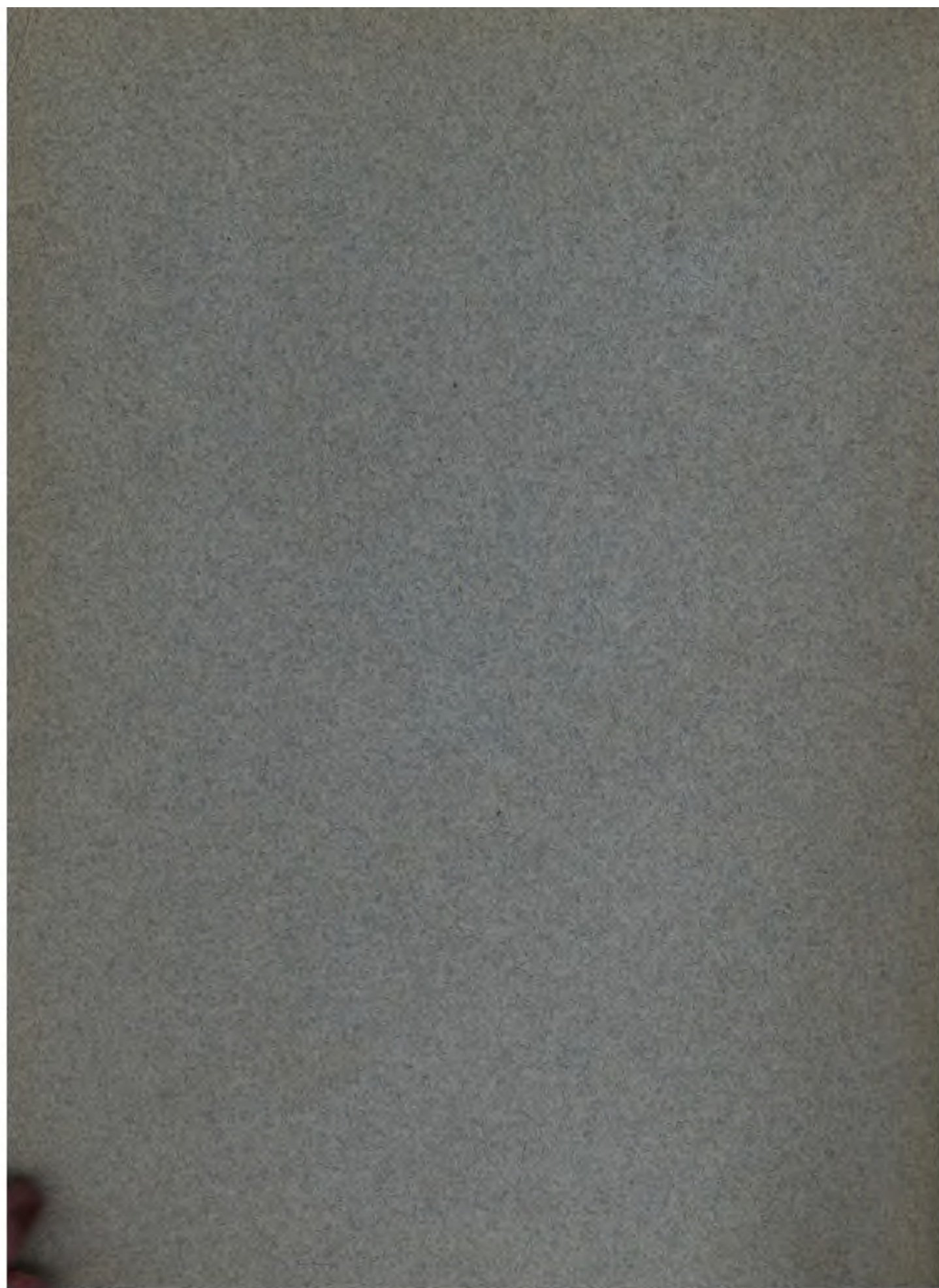
Shakespeare

see Book of Differ. 61/

see Ryght of E. i. fol
2: 28. Book of differ



Facsimile of original Sketch in trick of the Shakespere Arms.









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